

REMARKS

1. In response to the Office Action mailed January 2, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-20 and 22-31 were last presented for examination. Claims 3, 7 and 21 were previously canceled. By the foregoing Amendments, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8-11, 13-18, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28-31 have been amended, and no claims have been cancelled or added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-20 and 22-31 will remain pending in this application. Of these twenty-eight (28) claims, three (3) claims (claims 1, 20 and 25) are independent.

2. Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Claim Amendments

3. By the foregoing Amendments, Applicants have amended the claims to make the claims more readable. Applicants submit that the above Amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims and that no new matter has been added. Support for the claim amendments is found in the originally filed specification and drawings.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the arguments submitted in response to the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-20 and 22-31 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 have been accepted by the Examiner. Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

5. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-20 and 22-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that claims 1, 9, 10, 20, 23, 25 and 28 are indefinite because the claims use the trademark "I²C" to identify and describe an expander or bus.

6. Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, 10, 20, 23, 25 and 28 to remove the trademark "I²C" from the claims. In particular, the trademark "I²C" has been changed to "Inter-Integrated Circuit." Support for this change may be found at paragraph [0036] of Applicants' Published Application. In view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. Section 112 be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims

7. The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them *a fortiori* independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections of the dependent claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

8. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

9. Applicants make no admissions by not addressing any outstanding rejections or basis of rejections. Furthermore, Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims or other subject matter disclosed in this application in a continuation or divisional application. Thus, cancellations and amendments of above claims, are not to be construed as an admission regarding the patentability of any claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

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